AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-22 (cancelled).

23 (previously presented). A rotary device for dispersing a gas in a molten metal, said device comprising a hollow shaft at one end of which is a rotor, said rotor having a roof and a base, said roof and base being spaced apart and connected by a plurality of dividers, a passage being defined between each adjacent pair of dividers and the roof and the base, each passage having an inlet and first and second outlets, a flow path being defined through the shaft into the inlets of the passages and out of the first and second outlets, wherein each first outlet is disposed radially outwardly of the respective inlet and arranged to disperse gas laterally of the rotor in use, and wherein each second outlet is disposed in the roof of the rotor and arranged to disperse gas upwardly from the rotor in use.

24 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the rotor is formed from a solid block of material, the roof and the base being constituted by upper and lower regions of the block respectively, an intermediate region of the block having bores therein which define the passages, each divider being defined by the intermediate region between each bore.

25 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein each bore is of uniform diameter.

26 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the dividers are in the form of vanes and each passage is a compartment defined between adjacent vanes.

27 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein each second outlet is a cut-out extending inwardly from the outer periphery of the roof.

28 (currently amended). A device as claimed in claim 27, wherein the cut-outs are part-circular or semi-circular ~~and are preferably arranged symmetrically around the rotor~~.

29 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second outlets do not extend downwardly as far as the base of the rotor.

30 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the rotor has four passages defined by four dividers with eight second outlets in the form of semi-circular cut-outs arranged symmetrically around the rotor.

31 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the rotor is provided with a chamber in which mixing of molten metal and gas can take place.

32 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the chamber is located radially inwardly of the inlets and has an opening in the base of the rotor, such that in use when the device rotates, molten metal is drawn into the chamber through the base of the rotor where it is mixed with gas passing into the chamber from the shaft, the metal/gas dispersion then being pumped into the passages through the inlets before being discharged from the rotor through the first and second outlets.

33 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first outlets have a greater cross-sectional area than the inlets.

34 (currently amended). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the rotor is circular in transverse cross section ~~and is preferably attached to the shaft at its centre~~.

35 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the shaft and rotor are formed separately, the two being attached together by releasable fixing means.

36 (previously presented). A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the rotor is formed from a solid block of graphite.

37 (previously presented). A method of treating molten metal comprising the steps of: -

(i) immersing the rotor and part of the shaft of the device of claim 1 in the molten metal to be treated,

(ii) rotating the shaft, and

(iii) passing gas and optionally one or more treatment substances down the shaft and into the molten metal via the rotor, whereby to degas the metal.

38 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the metal to be treated is selected from aluminium, magnesium, copper and alloys thereof.

39 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the gas used in step (iii) is selected from one or more of chlorine, a chlorinated hydrocarbon, nitrogen and argon.

40 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 39, wherein the gas used in step (iii) is dry nitrogen.

41 (currently amended). The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the treatment of molten metal comprises a grain refinement and/or modification and/or cleaning treatment and the optional treatment substance of step (iii) is a granulated cleaning/drossing, grain refining and/or modification species.

42 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the optional treatment substance is selected from one or more of titanium salts and/or boron

salts, sodium salts and strontium master alloy.

43 (previously presented). The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein the rotation speed of step (ii) is 400 rpm or less.

44 (previously presented). A rotor for use in the rotary device of claim 23, said rotor comprising a roof and a base, said roof and base being spaced apart and connected by a plurality of dividers, a passage being defined between each adjacent pair of dividers and the roof and the base, each passage having a gas inlet and first and second gas outlets, wherein each first outlet is disposed radially outwardly of the respective inlet and arranged to disperse gas laterally of the rotor in use, and wherein each second outlet is disposed in the roof of the rotor and arranged to disperse gas upwardly from the rotor in use.

45 (new). A device as claimed in claim 28, wherein the cut-outs are arranged symmetrically around the rotor.

46 (new). A device as claimed in claim 34, wherein the rotor is attached to the shaft at its centre.